

For further information

Contact **Brian Hauswirth**,  
Public Information officer  
Tele: 573/522-1118  
Direct FAX: 573/751-4099  
P.O. Box 236  
Jefferson City MO 65102



*For Immediate Release...*

## *Corrections News*

April 11, 2008

### Department to Participate in 'Capital for a Day' in St. Charles

Fulfilling his pledge to make state government more accessible to Missourians, Governor Matt Blunt and leaders from 16 state departments will hold the fifth 'Capital for a Day' today in St. Charles.

During Capital for a Day, the Missouri Department of Corrections will hold office hours at the First State Capitol at 200 South Main Street from 1 to 5 p.m. Department Director Larry Crawford, Probation and Parole (P&P) District 17 Administrator James Adkins and other P&P officials will be available to meet with area residents.

"We've learned that the key to government is successful partnerships," said Crawford. "The Department is about to launch a pilot project with the St. Charles County Drug Court. We believe it will reduce Department admissions from this county, and will increase public safety."

The Department has a longstanding partnership with the St. Charles County Drug Court. The "In Custody Drug Court Program" is a new component. The Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement a pilot project with the St. Charles County Drug Court. Instead of sentencing offenders to the Department of Corrections for institutional treatment, the pilot project will place the offenders in a jail-based substance abuse treatment program operated through the drug court. Upon completion of the jail-based treatment, the offenders would receive community-based treatment and probation supervision through the drug court. The aim is to keep the offender in the community, where he or she is closer to employment and family. By providing a continuity of treatment, it is expected that this program will reduce DOC admissions from St. Charles County, as well as increase the success rates of offenders. The aim is to increase public safety.

Missouri Probation and Parole District 17 covers St. Charles County, and serves about 2,700 offenders.

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